Chief Ministers' conference on Power

2855. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Power recently decided to convene a conference of State Chief Minsiters to adopt a Common Minimum Action Plan for Power Sector, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 3rd December, 1996;

(b) whether the centre has also decided to seek the Chief Ministers' approval for the proposed rationalisation of tariffs and metering of power supplies; and

(c) if so, what are the main proposals approved by the Conference, indicating the powers given to the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the State Regulatory Commissions in different States regarding power planning handling of licenses and IPPs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) Chief Ministers' Conference on Power were held on 16th October, 1996 and 3rd December, 1996 to deliberate upon the important issues in the power sector and draw up an Action Plan for bringing about improvement in the sector which inter-alia, includes sectors reforms, performance of utilities, tariff rationalisation, metering etc. The Action Plan would need to be finalised based on the various suggestions of the Chief Ministers/Energy Ministers.

National Development Council

2856. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) when the next National Development Council is scheduled to meet;

(b) whether the vital issues like delimination/floods/cyclone/drought, etc. would be included in the agenda; and

(c) if so, whether the views and comments of the States of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh with regard to the above issues have been sought, before preparing the agenda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) The next meeting of the National Development Council is scheduled to be held on the 16th January, 1997. The proposed Agenda for this meeting is "Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan" which will include thrust areas and the priorities of the Plan. Planning Commission had sought the views of all the Chief Ministers on the Approach to the Ninth Plan and had taken into consideration the views received from the Chief Ministers while formulating the Draft Approach Paper.

Pending Schemes for Supply of Drinking Water

2857. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes for supply of drinking water submitted by different State Governments are pending since long;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in giving approval;

(c) the number of schemes received by Government from the different States during the Eighth Five Year Plan, till date;

(d) the cost of those schemes;

(e) whether any such scheme has been received from Orissa; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (f) The requistite information is being collected and shall be laid down on the Table of the House.

Public Holidays for Polio Drops to Children

2858. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act have been